



# Assembly California Legislature

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ASSEMBLYMAN, SECOND DISTRICT

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Lester Snow  
Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Lester:

I want to take this opportunity to pass on my comments regarding the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIS/EIR). *First let me thank you for listening to our comments and concerns of the past.* It is evident in this draft that you have made a serious attempt at resolving many of my constituents concerns. Some significant concerns do remain, however, and I will discuss those here in a general way and urge you to closely study more specific comments you will hear from our communities, water associations and others in the North State.

The Draft PEIS/EIR is full of innovative ways to cut the water pie finer but does little to make the water pie bigger. Unchanged, this will be a disservice as it ignores our state's increasing water demands!

There are really only three practical ways to make more water available:

- Water use efficiency
- Removing excessive transpiration vegetation
- Providing more storage of winter runoff and snowmelt

The preferred program alternative does a good job of developing water use efficiency strategies with positive local involvement, however, before moving more water through and south of the Delta, additional core principles must be met:

**First, you must assure area of origin water needs for agricultural and communities are not compromised in all that you do--**As a minimum, you must quantify these needs for areas of origin in the final plan.

2.

**Second, take care of the basic resource--**Restore and protect from the top of the watersheds down, using a holistic approach, reducing water loss from dense unnatural vegetation ready to fuel stand replacement fires and silt up storage facilities, reducing our ability to store and deliver water and prevent floods. The potential for increased yield and late season flow extension is real, born out by over 150 paired watershed studies across the nation beginning in 1909.

**Third, accelerate planning, construction and improvement of storage facilities to capture flood and excess runoff--***Less than 2% of your stage one budget is committed to this effort and is grossly inadequate!* You should give top priority to off site storage facilities in the North Valley where preliminary studies indicate strong feasibility such as Sites/Colusa and at making existing facilities like Shasta Dam more efficient or effective. This is the region of greatest rainfall and underlying geologic strata is least likely to be useful for ground water recharge strategies. As written, the Integrated Storage Investigation is out of balance with over four times the money designated for groundwater storage then for surface storage.

*--Only after satisfying these first three needs should you then act on proposals to move new water where it can solve statewide problems.--*

**Fourth, redesign the potentially useful Environmental Water Account (EWA) concept--**Assure that final authority over allocation of EWA water and money is shared by regulatory agencies AND urban/ rural agricultural water users.

**Fifth, actively engage with Trinity County in finding ways to resolve Trinity River restoration needs with minimum impact on the Central Valley System.**

**Sixth, adhere to the rock bottom principal that the "Beneficiary Pays" --**Clearly define "Beneficiaries" in the final plan.

**Finally, avoid land acquisitions that reduce productive agricultural lands foundational to local economies and to our states well being.** Focus instead on advancing agricultural water efficiencies and developing additional cooperative wildlife and fish strategies in conjunction with agriculture.

3.

Again communities, counties, and stakeholders in water, agriculture, forestry, have been working hard to study and respond with meaningful comments. These folks, and the watersheds, resources, and farms they depend on undergird the whole system. Please carefully consider their more detailed comments that are coming to your under separate cover.

Thank you



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DD:sf